

## Virus isolation periods updated at NW

KENNEDY KALVODA  
News Reporter | @TheMissourian

There were more than 60 million cases of the COVID-19 omicron variant in the U.S. as of Jan. 9, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of that total, 193 of the cases are in Nodaway County. Lt. Amanda Cullin, member of Crisis Response Team 2, said the biggest changes to campus protocols amid the surge of cases are how long quarantine and isolation periods are.

The CDC changed the time required for quarantines after a positive test to five days, so Northwest will change its requirements to match.

The CDC has also updated the protocols for those exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If those exposed are vaccinated with boosters, have completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six months, or completed the primary series of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two months, people should wear a mask for ten days and test on the fifth day if possible.

SEE PROTOCOLS | A4

## Maryville R-II adapts to new guidelines

JAKE PRATER  
News Reporter | @JakobLPra

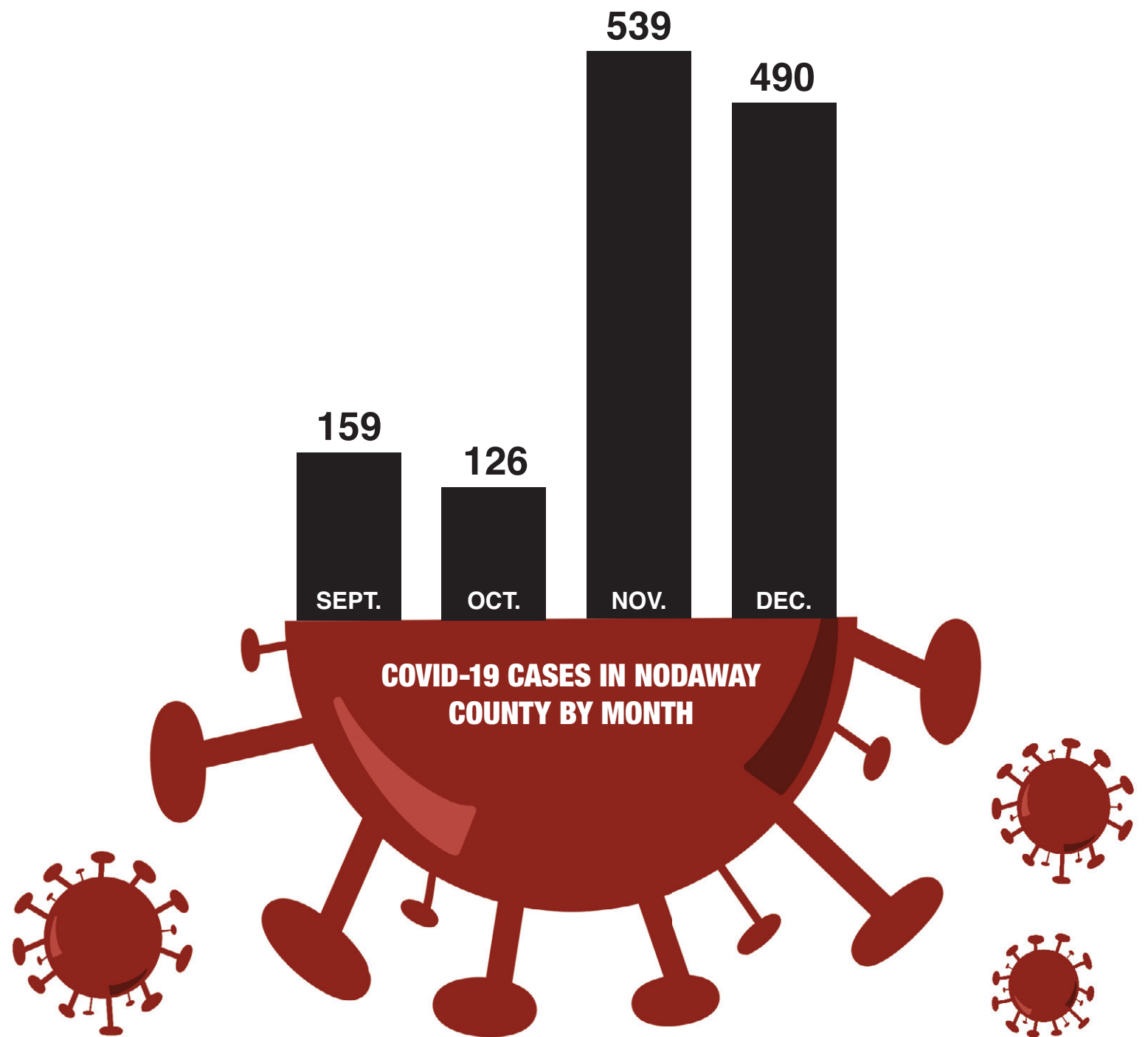
The Maryville R-II School District started the second semester of the 2021-2022 academic school year Jan. 5 with updated quarantine protocols. Superintendent Becky Albrecht said the school district is continuing its cooperative work on COVID-19 and quarantine protocols with the Nodaway County Health Department.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced an update in quarantine guidelines Dec. 27. The updated isolation period for the general population should now last five days.

If the infected isolator shows no symptoms after the five days, then they can end their quarantine, followed by wearing a mask in public for five days.

"We are always concerned about the health and safety of our students and staff," Albrecht said. "... and we believe we are making the best choices we can given the circumstances."

SEE MHS | A4



SOURCE: NODAWAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

GRAPHIC BY MAKAYLA POLAK DESIGN EDITOR

## COVID-19 CASES HIT RECORD NUMBER

NATHAN ENGLISH  
Managing Editor | @nathan\_3nglish

A day before the spring semester was set to begin at Northwest, Nodaway County was setting a record — for COVID-19.

Wednesday morning the Nodaway County Health Department reported 71 people tested positive for the virus on Monday, the most in a single day since the start of the pandemic. Mondays have been historically the highest testing days in the county due to individuals delaying testing over the weekend.

NCHD also announced on Wednesday a new death from COVID-19 in the county occurred Jan. 9. It's the 38th death from the virus in the county since the pandemic began. The individual was in the 80-99 age category.

The county has 202 active cases of COVID-19, according to the most recent data available at the time of publication.

Nodaway County's record day comes as the U.S. is also setting records for case counts, with 1.5 million active cases in the country on Monday due to the omicron variant.

## New variant takes hold of Nodaway County

Tom Patterson, administrator for NCHD, said the new variant is "real aggressive."

"We're just going to have a lot of cases and a lot of people probably walking around that don't know they have it," Patterson said.

Early studies have indicated that omicron, while more contagious than its predecessors, is likely less severe. However, the record case numbers are causing hospitalization rates to soar to new heights

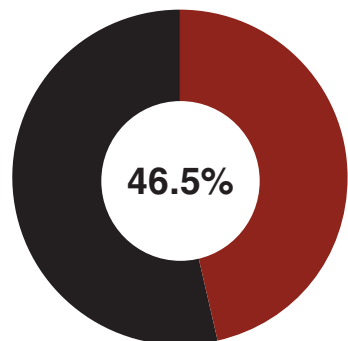
across the state and country. There are currently nine people in Nodaway County hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the most recent data available at the time of publication.

Nate Blackford, president of Mosaic - Maryville, said the hospital is seeing increasing numbers of caregivers testing positive for COVID-19 putting a strain on the system. The normal amount of caregivers out with COVID-19 was around three to four prior to omicron. Now, that number is at 15.

"It's not like our marketing department. I mean, it's direct-care individuals, predominantly, and so that's my biggest concern," Blackford said.

Other health systems are reporting similar problems; Kansas University Hospital reported more than 900 staff out due to the virus over the weekend, with many more waiting on test results. Staff shortages and increased cases could create nightmare scenarios, making it extremely difficult for hospitals to provide normal patient care.

SEE RECORD | A4

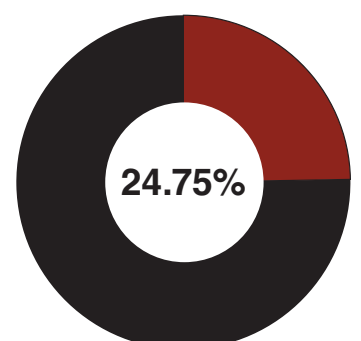


Vaccinated population in Nodaway County

SOURCE: NODAWAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

71

people tested positive for the virus Jan. 10



of total positive cases in the county are at Northwest

GRAPHIC BY MAKAYLA POLAK DESIGN EDITOR

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# Maryville police introduces new officers, resources

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Editor | @sidney\_lowry

The Maryville Police Department introduced new officers and announced it received a \$30,000 grant at the Jan. 10 City Council meeting, where the council approved a contract for new mobile data units.

Christian first introduced five of the six new officers MPD has hired at the beginning of the council meeting. Officers Alison Bagley, Abel Garcia, Shane Owens, Colin Staples and Melissa Ramirez were added to the department.

After Chrisian reported the department’s current terminals were nearing the end of their lifespan, the City Council approved a \$38,839.43 contract with MTE Office Center to bring in seven new mobile data terminals.

These seven terminals will replace the six existing units at the department and add one to the Mazingo Lake Patrol that currently does not have one.

The last time these systems were updated was seven years ago, and after years of use, officers have started to see unresponsive touch screens causing reduced speed and functionality of the units.

This wasn’t the first time discussion about replacing these has come up at a council meeting, as it approved an allocation of \$40,000 for the replacement of terminals with funding through the American Rescue Plan Act at the Dec. 13 meeting.

Though the funding was approved through the ARPA, the police department applied for a \$10,000 grant to offset the cost of the terminals. Christian said that he has not yet heard back on if the department received the grant, but, if so, the funding from the ARPA can be used elsewhere.

Later in the meeting, Christian announced that the police department received the Gladys M. Rickard Charitable Trust grant for the purchase of new specialized equipment for evidence and processing. Christian said the department received the grant for new specialized equipment.

The City Council approved a contract with Arrowhead Scientific Inc. to purchase the equipment that is to be installed and used at the department.

“It’s been on our wish list for a number of years,” Christian said. “The actual grant process just started in October, so it was a fairly quick process. We were



Maryville Police Chief Ron Christian stands at the first City Council meeting of the 2022 year to introduce new Maryville Police officers. Christian also announced that MPD received a \$30,000 grant at the Jan. 10 City Council meeting.

just notified in December that we were fortunate enough to have this grant funded.”

Sgt. Ryan Glidden started the grant application back in October 2021, and in just two months MPD was chosen to receive a \$33,360.13 grant to purchase six different types of equipment like lighting, fingerprinting tools and an evidence drying chamber.

Now that the department has been granted the funding for these pieces of equipment, officers will be using some of the tools in the field of duty and others will be installed at the R. Keith Wood Public Safety Facility.

These newly added resources will allow law enforcement agencies across Nodaway County to help victims or those falsely accused of crime by provid-

ing the prosecutor with forensic evidence like DNA and fingerprints, according to the report given to the council.

“It just gives us some tools to to hopefully be able to better identify, find and preserve small pieces of evidence, whether it be fingerprints, fibers, things like that, it just just helps us to, to elevate the level of service,” Christian said.

# Meet Maryville R-II’s soon-to-be superintendent

KENDRICK CALFEE  
Editor-in-Chief | @calfee\_kc

When Becky Albrecht retires from her position as Maryville R-II superintendent at the end of the school year — after her 30 year tenure in education — Logan Lightfoot will fill her shoes.

Lightfoot currently serves as superintendent at the Anselmo-Merna Public School District in

Merna, Nebraska. He’s held that position since 2018, but his experience in education goes beyond administrative roles.

“When I kind of think about and look back on my career and places that had a huge impact on me, by far, in a way, Maryville, Missouri, is at the top of that list,” Lightfoot said in a phone call with The Missourian.

Lightfoot’s journey in education begins with Northwest, where he earned both his Bachelor of Science in English and Master of Science in education. He later earned a specialist of education degree and executive doctorate of education from St. Louis University.

After receiving his teaching degree, Lightfoot taught at Savannah High School in Savannah, Missouri, where he also coached soccer.

Lightfoot then taught at Platte County R-III as a READ 180 teacher, helping students who read below their current grade level build reading skills. The following year, he served as the assistant principal at Platte City Middle School.

Then, Lightfoot took his first head principal job at West Platte in Weston, Missouri, serving a 7-12 grade administration there.

At this point in his career, Lightfoot said, he wanted experience in a larger district and worked as principal of Excelsior Springs High School. Following that role, he was hired to his current position of superintendent of the Anselmo-Merna Public School District.

“The community and the town just so much reminded me of home.”

**-LOGAN LIGHTFOOT**  
FUTURE MARYVILLE R-II SUPERINTENDENT



LOGAN LIGHTFOOT  
SUBMITTED

Lightfoot’s family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, when he was 10 years old. When he turned 18 and moved two hours down Interstate 29 for college, Maryville essentially became the place he grew up, Lightfoot said.

“The college had a huge impact on me, obviously, but the community and the town just so much reminded me of home,” Lightfoot said.

Following his graduation from Northwest, Lightfoot lived in Maryville with his wife Leanna for the first year of their marriage. When they eventually move back to the district this summer, their two children Landry and Lyla will be attending 5th grade and 3rd grade, respectively.

Though he has been in several school districts with differing roles, working in Maryville is an opportunity Lightfoot said he could not pass up. When the Maryville R-II position came open, those feelings of home began to creep back in. They were what motivated him to apply and embrace possible change for his family.

Now, he wants to inspire positive change in the district.

“As I got into (education), I saw the incredible impact that passionate administrators in a school system can make on students,” Lightfoot said. “And once I got into teaching, I kind of saw that as my logical next step.”

“You get good teachers and coaches by having great leadership in schools and inspiring and growing those great leaders and coaches, and that is what I really love to do,” Lightfoot said.

In a press release, Sean Wiedmaier said the district is looking forward to what Lightfoot may bring to the district.

“We are very pleased that Dr. Lightfoot has accepted this position. His vision and dedication to students, staff and the community will ensure that Maryville R-II School District continues to be one of the best school districts in Missouri,” Wiedmaier said in the release.

Lightfoot will officially assume the superintendent role July 1.



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# Bethany liquor store expands to Main Street

JAKE PRATER  
Missourian Reporter | @JakoblPrater

A family-owned liquor store based in Bethany, Missouri announced via its Facebook page it would open a sister location in Maryville.

Named for its Bethany address sitting just off Interstate 35, the original site of 39th Street Liquor opened last April and hosts tastings for local breweries and wineries. Aside from carrying all major brands of beer, wine and liquor, the store also has seasonal and rare products for sale, including products from local breweries and wineries in both Bethany and Maryville.

The Maryville location opened up with limited products on sale Dec. 18, just in time for alcohol sales for Christmas and New Year's. The store officially opened Dec. 22 and celebrated a grand opening Dec. 29.

Upperclassmen and locals will recognize the building as the former location of Jock's

Nitch Sporting Goods, which went out of business over two years ago.

Patrick Miller is a Bethany native, but he is familiar with the Maryville area. In addition to 39th Street Liquor, he owns Bull's Eye Trading in Maryville, which, like 39th Street Liquor, opened up as a sister location to the Bethany pawn shop in December 2016.

"We're keeping up with Hy-Vee," employee Patrick Schaben said. "We've got all the same prices, so having a hometown liquor store is going to help the community. It's not going to big corporations."

"We have a lot of Iowa drinks, a lot of Missouri wine and vodkas, basically whatever we can get our hands on," Schaben said. "We've got a lot of craft beers that Hy-Vee doesn't, so that brings in a lot of customers."

With the spring semester just beginning, the store is expecting more business as the student population returns to Maryville. Schaben said the store has al-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

39th Street Liquor employee Patrick Schaben restocks shelves in the store's walk-in coolers in Maryville. The new location opened up with limited products on sale Dec. 18, just in time for alcohol sales for Christmas and New Year's. The original 39th Street Liquor is located in Bethany, Missouri.

ready had more college-aged customers shop in the days before classes resumed.

Employee Ellie Reiss said 39th Street Liquor gets business because it sells so many local and small-town drinks.

"We have a bigger selection and we're able to get different stuff in, so we've had a lot of customers," Reiss said.

The new Maryville location is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. It's located at 108 S. Main St., right across the street from Señor Burrito.

"Instead of everyone trying to drive all the way up to Hy-Vee who lives right next to campus, they can walk or drive here," Schaben said. "That'll help business quite a bit."



MADDISYN GERHARDT | NW MISSOURIAN

South Main construction continues during the winter season. Phase I of the project is to trench utility lines. One of the major features of the project is underground electric and water lines.

# Crews prepare for winter weather

SIDNEY LOWRY  
News Editor | @sidney\_lowry

As Maryville pushes further into winter, people driving down South Main Street may see halted construction on the South Main Corridor Improvement Project.

Because the project is 18 months long, it was bound to hit the winter season regardless of the start time. City Manager Greg McDaniel said the city has been fortunate to have had a warm winter so far, allowing construction to progress with minimal weather delays. Temperatures allowed the contractor to complete a significant portion of the storm sewer and waterline.

McDaniel said the days when construction has to be stopped due to weather conditions will not be held against the contractor and are already budgeted into the contract that was agreed upon when construction was first approved.

The project received its funding at the Sept. 7, 2021, City Council meeting and started Phase I of construction Oct. 11. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 18 months and will include improvements from South Avenue to the north entrance of Walmart.

Phase I of the project is to trench utility lines. One of the major features of the project is underground electric lines. Though the harsh winter weather is approaching, McDaniel said there is still work that can be done during the winter, just as long as the weather isn't in the low 20s or teens.

McDaniel said the City of Maryville works with the contractor, VF Anderson Builders LLC, to look at the upcoming temperatures to determine whether or not it will be safe for workers to be out.

Cold stress and wind chill effect are some of the main factors that put workers at risk, according to the U.S. Department of Labor and Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Cold stress is when the temperature of the skin is driven down, which ultimately leads to a lower internal body temperature. To keep workers safe against cold stress, employers monitor weather and worker conditions.

Another main issue when working in a traffic zone during winter weather conditions is drivers skidding along roads with ice or snow. To avoid accidents related to winter weather, sites are encouraged to identify construction zones with cones, barrels, barriers and signs to protect the workers.

So far, there has only been one day where construction was halted due to weather conditions. Though there will be days where temperatures will be too low or there will be too much snow on the ground, there is no worry about the completion date of the project being affected.

"This is a community transformational project that's going to impact this corridor for the next 50 years," McDaniel said. "So we're excited to get it done and appreciate the public's patience and getting there with us."

## Worship in Maryville


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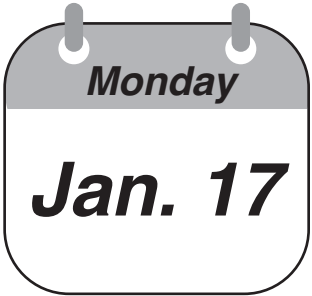
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**MLK Day of Learning**  
8 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom

**MLK Peace Brunch**  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Union Ballroom



**Diversity and Inclusion  
“Get on the Bus” Movie Night**  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Student Union Boardroom



**Black Student Union  
“MLK/FBI” Movie Night**  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Student Union Boardroom



**MLK Week Trivia Night**  
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the Student Union Boardroom

GRAPHIC BY SIDNEY LOWRY

# Northwest to host events for MLK Week

KENNEDY KALVODA  
News Reporter | @TheMissourian

As Martin Luther King Jr. Day approaches, many people have plans to honor and celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. For Northwest, there is an entire week of events planned. To start the celebration, there will be an MLK Day of Learning, which will include a series of workshops, from 8-11 a.m. Jan. 17 on the third floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union. There will also be a peace brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 17 in the J.W. Jones Student Union in the Student Union Ballroom. At the lunch, Northwest is welcoming back University alumni. Alumna Karen Daniel, who has made significant efforts to help black students by providing scholarships and opportunities, will speak at the brunch and award three \$5,000 Karen L. Daniel Legacy Fund scholarships. The Diversity and Inclusion Office will also announce the recipients of the Diversity and Inclusion Awards at the brunch. The DI Office will show the movie “Get on the Bus” from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Union Boardroom. The movie is about the Montgomery bus boycott. From 6-8 p.m. Jan. 20, the Black Student Union will have a showing of “MLK/FBI” in the Student Union Boardroom.

There will be a trivia night open to everyone on campus over the two movies in the Student Union Boardroom from 6-7 p.m. Jan. 21. The trivia night will have prizes like gift cards and candy.

“There’s more to Dr. King than just the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech.”

**- JUSTIN MALLETT**  
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

BSU President Sherry Harper said she thinks these events are important to host on campus because we are in an educational environment, and while we may know the basics about Martin Luther King Jr., we should dive deeper into what he stood for. “I think that getting into our college education is where you need to start expanding on those things outside of that prominent speech and the thing that everybody knows. It’s like, OK, what else? What else did this

influence? What else did he influence? What else influenced him? More things that we can actually divulge in now that we’re old enough to have an understanding of important things like that,” Harper said. Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett said Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the main outspoken and prominent people who many associate the understanding of systemic inequities with. “To understand the constant struggle that Dr. King went through in order to create equity and try to bring Black people to the forefront, I think that’s important for us to understand and acknowledge. There’s more to Dr. King than just the “I Have a Dream” speech, and I think we have to be able to understand what those things are and celebrate him in his true form,” Mallett said. Harper said she hopes these events will have a positive impact on our student body. “I hope, if anything, it just gets the recognition of the fact that the things that Martin Luther King Jr. was fighting for back then are still things that we fight for now,” Harper said. “And that even though it was like 50, 60 years ago, these are still things that are happening. And it may not be as bad in this area, but in this area it applies. And if we can see and learn from what was going on back then, then we can make a difference now.”

## CRIME LOG for the week of Jan. 13

### Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

**Jan. 10**  
There is an open investigation for property damage in Parking Lot 62.

### Maryville Police Department

**Jan. 10**  
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 800 block of East Edwards Street.

**Jan. 9**  
A summons was issued to Dreyon A.R. Crider, 21, for driving while intoxicated and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 1600 block of North Main Street.

**Jan. 8**  
There was an accident between Thomas J. Endicott, 38, and Brayden R. Durham, 18, on the 1200 block of East First Street.

**Jan. 7**  
A debit card was recovered on the 400 block of Mattie Street.

**Jan. 6**  
There was an accident between Christopher L. Anderson, 41, and Rebecca A. Dunnell on the 1600 block of South Main Street. There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 1200 block of East First Street.

**Jan. 5**  
There was an accident between Ryan D. Prewett, 46, and Tom L. Thompson, 76, on the 100 block of East Third Street. There is an ongoing investigation for trespassing on the 600 block of East First Street.

**Jan. 4**  
There was an accident between Madison D. Conley, 23, and Joseph A. Waldeier, 16, on U.S. Highway 136 and Katydid Road. Conley was issued a citation for careless and imprudent driving. A summons was issued to Larry L. Laun, 74, for a code violation on the 400 block of West Second Street. There is an ongoing investigation for tampering with a motor vehicle on the 1200 block of East First Street.

## PROTOCOLS CONTINUED FROM A1

Since everyone is now eligible to receive a booster shot at least six months after their second dose of the vaccine, the University Wellness Center will have booster shots available along with covid vaccines. They are also available through local health care providers by visiting [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov). Cullin also said that mitigation protocols and mask mandates in campus classrooms and labs will remain the same as they were during the previous semester. Face coverings are mandatory in all shared, inside spaces for people who are not vaccinated. Face coverings are needed for all individuals at all times in classrooms and labs, the Wellness Center, Horace Mann Laboratory School, and the Phyllis and Richard Leet Center for Children and Families, including its infant and toddler care area. Face coverings are also required in all Safe Ride vehicles, which are defined as public transportation. Face coverings are mandatory in meeting rooms where 6 feet of social distance cannot be attained. Face coverings are not required but recommended in all other common, indoor spaces for people who are current with their vaccines. The University expects all employees, students and visitors to comply with the mitigation measures while they are on campus and using its facilities. Though these are the set guidelines Northwest has provided for this semester, Cullin said they are subject to change. “We have to be very adaptable. Things could change quickly,” Cullin said. As far as the possibility of moving to online or remote learning at some point, Cullin said those decisions would be made based on the information the University gets from state dashboards and local case numbers. Cullin said the biggest thing students should keep in mind in regard to COVID-19, and health in general, throughout this spring semester is personal responsibility. “Take care of yourself, your well-being, as well as your physical health, and use the resources that are available to you on campus,” Cullin said. “As long as you continue to take care of yourself and your well-being, I think together we can have a healthier campus and a great semester.”

## MHS CONTINUED FROM A1

The CDC also recommends the five-day quarantine and the five days of wearing a mask for anyone who has been potentially exposed to COVID-19. This protocol applies to those unvaccinated, anyone who has had their second dosage of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over six months ago, anyone who has had the Johnson & Johnson vaccine over two months ago, and for those who have not received any booster shots. Those who have received

booster shots do not need to isolate for five days after exposure. However, exposed individuals who’ve had booster shots are recommended to strict public mask-wearing for 10 days to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19. The 10 days of wearing a well-fitted mask is also the alternative for the exposed and unvaccinated if they can not self-isolate for five days. The isolation period recommendation was updated by the CDC after discovering that most of COVID-19 transmission occurs early in the course of illness. The updates were announced with the omicron variant in mind,

as it continues to spread throughout the U.S. According to the CDC, the update reflects the current science on when and for how long a person is most infectious. The Nodaway County Health Department is using these updates as an isolation guideline for the general population and the Maryville R-II School District. “This is the third year Covid has impacted our educational system,” Albrecht said. “While we are learning and adapting, things are not getting any easier. We are all doing the best we can during a very, very difficult time.”



FILE  
Northwest sticks with same mask mandate from October for spring 2022 semester. Masks are still required in all classrooms and in meeting places where social distancing is not possible.

## RECORD CONTINUED FROM A1

“It’s not just about COVID; it’s what if you have a heart attack? What if you have a stroke? Is there going to be staff, rooms and equipment available to take care of you? And that’s the biggest, scariest thing about this whole deal,” Blackford said. From what he has seen at the hospital, Blackford said, cases appear to be less severe than at times in the past for most patients. The hospital, though, has seen an increase in people requesting infusion treatments for COVID-19. Previously, the hospital was performing five to six infusions per day to help treat COVID-19. That number has jumped to 20 a day in recent weeks, and Mosaic has even begun opening weekend slots to accommodate more people. Lt. Amanda Cullin, member of the Crisis Response Team 2, said the University is preparing quarantine areas in case of a

large campus spike. After a stint in Dietrich, the quarantine housing is returning back to North Complex. As of Monday, Northwest had 50 active cases of the virus, accounting for nearly a quarter of all COVID-19 cases in the county. Cullin said the Wellness Center is one of many entities struggling to receive new tests. Supply chain issues have plagued the availability of health and safety equipment related to COVID-19. With an increase in cases everywhere in the U.S., testing shortages have popped up in numerous places. “They’re looking at all possible avenues to get new tests. As of right now, we’re okay,” Cullin said. “For a while, everything is going to be strained,” Patterson said. Cullin, Patterson and Blackford all reiterated the importance of proper precautions in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including mask-wearing, proper hand washing and getting vaccinated.

# Shaming women’s clothing is disgusting



MAKAYLA POLAK  
Design Editor  
@kaypolak

This world is full of hurtful words and insensitive people. People have to build a thick skin, especially women. They have to ignore the things that are being said about them despite how much it might actually hurt them.

It would be nice to be able to walk to the bars after preparing myself for a fun night out with friends without the fear of being catcalled. I’ve never understood what’s so entertaining about preying on women. I might laugh as a failed attempt to cope with being whistled or yelled at, but it becomes the sole reason I leave the bar early. It’s also the reason I wore an oversized hoodie to class the next day.

To those who are bold enough to make comments directly to a woman, those comments are equally as harmful. Despite the intention of a compliment, it’s not as charming as you think to comment on women’s body parts.

I guess the American school system is partially to blame for how women are supposed to dress. Schools restrict girls from wearing shorts that go above our fingertips and shirts that expose our shoulders. This restriction on clothes shaped my clothing style and still affects it to this day. I can see how society is also shaped by this restriction, including the opposing sex it wasn’t enforced on.

Boys grow up spending eight hours a day in a school where girls don’t wear anything provocative. In the real world, women will be showing their stomachs, shoulders and wearing shorter shorts. Strict dress codes for women might not teach men how to act around women’s clothing, but it’s hardly an excuse for disgusting behavior.

My mom warned me that men were going to whistle at me, but she didn’t prepare me for all of society to judge the way a person looks.

I didn’t start wearing crop tops until about a year ago, because I have always been told I shouldn’t. Crop tops are one of the many different clothing pieces that women might question wearing because of the overruling judgment from society. It seems that no matter what we decide to wear, there will always be someone that has something negative to say about it.

The words aren’t even the worst sometimes. Nonverbal cues can express a little more disdain, and I’m guilty of using them occasionally. It only takes one random person looking us up and down with cocked eyebrows to shatter the confidence we built up in the mirror.

Society needs to start being less critical of people and start accepting everyone for who they are. In their purest form, people can be amazing. We just have to let people be themselves.

Women are strong, beautiful individuals, and they will continue being such whether people want them to be or not. I guess it’s time for the world to let women be, well, women.

# THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat loves lingering Christmas

Hey, why do you still have Christmas decorations up? We are trying to bury 2021 in a deep, unmarked grave out in the middle of nowhere — so, essentially, prime real estate in Maryville — and some of you are still clinging to it with your cheap, gaudy Christmas decorations that weren’t worth your time or money.

By the look — or smell — of some of you, cleaning up clearly isn’t your first thought. But come on, it’s been three weeks. While this area during the winter tends to look like a stark depiction

of Cold War East Germany in an indie Soviet film from 1973, we try to pretend it’s a little nice — the Fourth Street thing looks decent.

The faded, grotesque red and green smattering painting front yards, living rooms and dorm rooms — don’t complain about your loan payments if you spent more than \$20 on Christmas decorations for your Millikan solitary cell — are really driving down property values.

And for the people who live in town, flexing their disposable income on us, we get

it. You guys don’t spend the night at The Pub and wake up with \$3 in your account. You can afford twinkle lights.

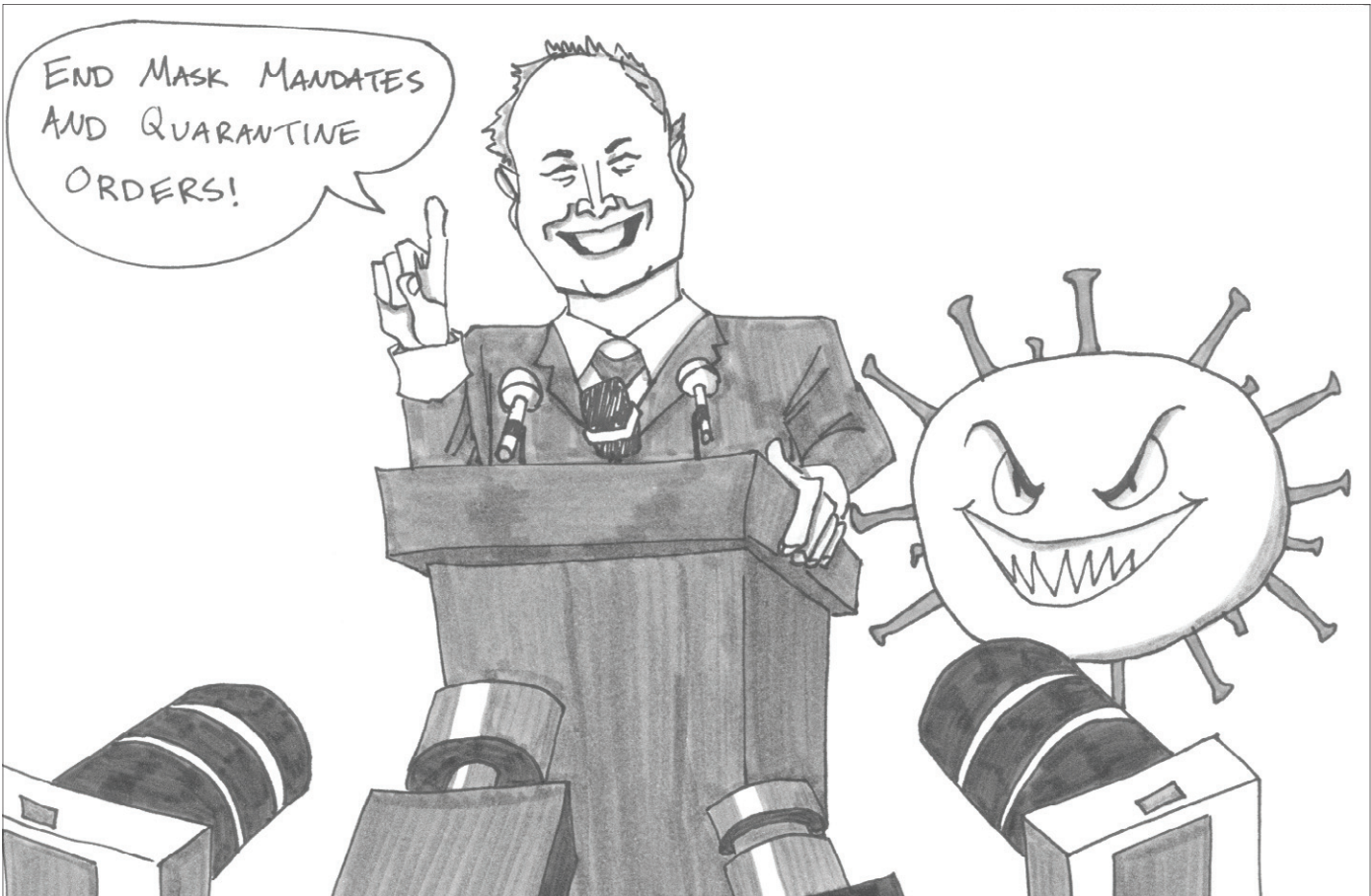
Look, some of us are trying to move onto stage two of seasonal depression, and many of you are still stuck in fun, quirky, serial breaking and entering fat guy — yes, that serial and not the other one — stage.

We have to progress to the brown, street-slushy stage before we get past the horror show that is Valentine’s Day and move to stage three. That stage is titled “It’s March;

why is it still winter?” I get that it takes a lot of effort, and sometimes braving the cold, to take down and properly store these decorations in the random colored plastic tote that’s been in the family for years. Please, for my sake, do it.

If I wanted to look at something that immediately ruins my mood while driving, I’d just put cardboard cutouts of my roommates in everyone’s front yard.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*



ALEXANDRIA MESZ | NW MISSOURIAN

## OUR VIEW:

# Attorney General Schmitt’s mandate fight is dangerous

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt has much of the state confused after sending letters to school districts and health departments across the state ordering them to end mask mandates and quarantine orders. These letters were sent during a spike in COVID-19 cases in Nodaway County. It doesn’t make sense to tell people to disregard precautions when they’re most needed, unless someone is trying to make a name for themselves. Unluckily for the people of Missouri, Schmitt is trying to do just that.

The pandemic still has a strong grip on the world, especially with the new omicron variant on the rise. While early studies show that this new variant is less severe than some prior to it, it’s still wreaking havoc. The U.S. is setting records for case counts, unvaccinated individuals are still at high risk, and healthcare systems across the state and country are being overwhelmed by the virus.

Schools and health departments shouldn’t be taking away protocols or mandates, because it’s endangering at-risk individuals and increasing the likelihood of transmission of an already infectious virus.

Data from the CDC clearly shows that schools without a mask mandate in place have more severe outbreaks than their mandated counterparts.

The Northwest Missourian Editorial Board has expressed our opinion on COVID-19 mitigations, how we need to take them seriously and why. Unfortunately, we have to address Missouri’s elected officials and plead that they don’t sweep the pandemic under the rug like it’s not a massive

elephant in a studio apartment. Administrator for the Nodaway County Health Department Tom Patterson said the orders are politically charged in an interview with Missourian shortly after the letters were issued. “We really truly are just trying to prevent disease and transmission,” Patterson said in the same interview.

It’s been said ad-nauseum to this point, but nobody is being oppressed by mask mandates; they’re simply precautions to keep the public safe.

On March 24, 2021, Schmitt announced he would be running for Senator Roy Blunt’s seat after Blunt announced he would not be running for reelection. His sudden aversion to vaccination and mask mandates could be a ploy to gain voters in the upcoming election.

Schmitt appeared on “Tucker Carlson Tonight” to discuss his ideas on why these mandates shouldn’t be enforced. As potential candidates for elections need as much exposure as possible, it’d be wise to get on high-traffic media outlets. With Fox News’ largely republican audience, Carlson’s show was the perfect venue for Schmitt to explain his plan to combat COVID-19 related mandates.

It’s not the first time the state attorney general has frivolously wasted the time and money of Missouri taxpayers for coverage and attention. A little over a month into the pandemic, Schmitt decided to focus his efforts on suing China for damages caused by the virus. So far the lawsuit has done exactly what many expected, nothing.

Whether Schmitt is disregarding

the health of Missourians or truly believes COVID-19 mitigations are a violation of freedom, liberty and everything American, forcing schools and health departments to ditch precautions isn’t the best plan of attack.

Yes, the masks can be cumbersome. Yes, staying at home sick with what can feel like the flu on steroids is horribly boring. However, what’s worse is having loved ones or anybody pass away from preventable causes. Politics are a treacherous trail to travel, but they aren’t more important than the millions of human lives we’ve lost to the pandemic. Repealing mandates in order to get elected is selfish.

Additionally, it makes no sense to take away safety nets. If we don’t need them, then the world is safe and can return to normal. If we do need them but don’t have them, then Missouri could be facing a lot of medical complications.

Our attorney general is handling the pandemic in the wrong way, especially if he is using it for leverage in an upcoming election. Missourian lives are being considered with the implemented vaccine, mask and quarantine mandates. To disregard those is to disregard Missourians.

Schmitt is joining the ever-growing list of leaders in this country who decide to devalue science in favor of their own image. It’s simply dangerous. Schmitt has deemed it appropriate to pole vault his way to a better office using straw-man arguments and ignorance. It’s something all Missourians should take note of.

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UPCOMING GAMES

MHS GBB	MHS BBB	MHS WRESTLING
MHS vs. St. Pius X 7:15 p.m. Jan. 13 'Hound Pound	MHS @ Glenwood 5 p.m. Jan. 15 Glenwood, Iowa	MHS @ Chillicothe 9 a.m. Jan. 15 Chillicothe, Missouri
MHS @ Glenwood 3:30 p.m. Jan. 15 Glenwood, Iowa	MHS @ Center 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 Kansas City, Missouri	
MHS vs. East Buch 6:15 p.m. Jan. 18 'Hound Pound	NW MBB	NW WBB
	NW vs. UNK 3:30 p.m. Jan. 15 Bearcat Arena	NW vs. UNK 1:30 p.m. Jan. 15 Bearcat Arena
*All Schedules subject to change due to COVID-19 protocols		

MEN  
CONTINUED FROM A8

Hudgins wasn't the only one to shoot well from the field in that game, though. Mostly everyone wearing a Northwest uniform did, as the Bearcats set the program' single-game record by making 72.9% (35-of-48) of their shots against the Griffons.

“It was a good game just to get us back in a rhythm, get us back to doing what we do.”

**-TREVOR HUDGINS**  
NORTHWEST MEN'S BASKETBALL JUNIOR GUARD

“The ball just went in the hole,” McCollum said Dec. 18. “It's one of those that, you know, you can say this, that or the other thing, but at the end of the day, sometimes you just make shots. I'd have to see the film, but we probably just made a lot of shots. We got the shots that we were looking for and were able to make 'em.”

To close out 2021, the 'Cats finished their regular-season nonconference schedule with an 85-59 win over Saint Mary

(Kan.), a triumph, again, led by Hudgins.

Eleven days after dropping 36 points during a rivalry matchup, the reigning NABC Division II Player of the Year scored 38 points while tying his own program record by draining 11 3-pointers against the Spires. It served as the 12th 30-point game of Hudgins' career.

“This was a great game. Saint Mary is a good team,” Hudgins said in the aftermath of the 26-point win Dec. 29. “It was a good game just to get us back in a rhythm, get us back to doing what we do.”

And in the Bearcats' final game before break ended — though they were supposed to have two more matchups before COVID-19 protocols postponed them — they let Pitt State dictate the pace of the game for much of the first half before using a 25-3 run in the second to eventually nab a 74-64 win over the Gorillas.

“I wouldn't necessarily say it was them; it was more our defense,” Northwest sophomore forward Wes Dreamer said Jan. 3. “We didn't come out ready on defense, and offense we were kind of stagnant, and we were just letting them get easy shots.”

Now the Bearcats will ride an 11-game win streak into the spring semester, though any momentum picked up from the wins over Saint Mary and Pitt will have to be reestablished after the two aforementioned postponements. And they'll be hoping to eventually finish this year the same way they ended last year: champions.



MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest women's basketball guard Molly Hartnett, the reigning MIAA Freshman of the Year, backs down the lane during the Bearcats' 49-46 win over Missouri Western Dec. 18 in Bearcat Arena. Hartnett finished with 5 points.

STREAK  
CONTINUED FROM A8

The Bearcats had a few days off before their final game of the 2021 year, a matchup against MIAA rival Missouri Western on Dec. 18.

The game was what one might expect from two close rivals. In a game that saw 10 lead changes, it wasn't until the final two seconds that free throws from

Northwest sophomore forward Paityn Rau and a missed 3-point attempt from former Bearcat and now-Western graduate student Jaelyn Haggard sealed a 49-46 win for Northwest.

“We always know it's going to be a challenge when it comes to them,” Northwest sophomore forward Jayna Green, who registered four blocks against the Griffons, said Dec. 18. “We know we're rivals in every sport. We're coming in with an attitude that we want to win, and we did.”

The team then had 13 days off before the first day of the new year for the first game of 2022. The Bearcats seemingly made a New Year's resolution to start the year off with a win, because they did just that with a 61-51 triumph over Missouri Southern in Bearcat Arena.

For the final game of the winter break, Northwest was slated against Pittsburg State — a squad the Bearcats had lost the previous 16 games against. It took 19 lead changes and a 12-7

scoring advantage in the fourth quarter, but the Bearcats secured their first victory against the Gorillas since March 2011.

“Like, honestly, I feel like every game we play we are beating some kind of milestone or record just because of the year we've had so far, but to be a part of that milestone is really awesome,” Green said.

As previously mentioned, Northwest sits at fourth in the MIAA, despite being slated to finish ninth in the conference in a preseason coaches and media poll, with a chance to jump up to No. 1 after games against No. 3 in the nation Fort Hays State and No. 16 Nebraska-Kearney.

Meyer said it's great to already be exceeding expectations, but that's not his or his team's focus.

“I don't know that anybody really thinks about that, because it wasn't our expectations,” Meyer said. “We have our own expectations.”

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# Juniors to lead 'Hounds down stretch

CORBIN SMITH  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

The 'Hounds returned to the gymnasium in Maryville High School as basketball season kicked off for them in November. Fans were met with the same feel of basketball season but with a few changes to Maryville girls basketball's bench.

This season, the Spoofhounds are under the supervision of Kelly Obley, who was an assistant coach last season under now-retired Quentin Albrecht. So far, the 'Hounds have posted a 7-5 record through their first two months of play and are looking to find their rhythm after the winter break.

"I'm looking forward to getting the opportunity to take this group to its potential," Obley said. "I think we have such a great team this year who play hard for each other. It's going to be a lot of fun to compete with a lot of really quality teams."

While school was out of session, the team traveled to Crete, Nebraska, to compete in the annual Doane College Tournament. Last season was the first season the Spoofhounds participated in the tournament, and they returned to Maryville with championship hardware to boast. Unlike the previous season, the jolly spirit of the holiday season didn't accompany the team on its 2 1/2-hour bus ride back to northwest Missouri.

A familiar foe met Maryville for its first match of the tournament, the team the Spoofhounds defeated to claim last season's tournament title. Maryville handed Crete a 37-29 loss and moved onto the championship game against Skutt Catholic. The 'Hounds weren't able to seal the deal and were sent home licking their wounds after a 39-24 loss to the Skyhawks.

One thing the out-of-state tournament proved is that this team is different from last season's, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. New seasons warrant new team dynamics, and with a new head coach and new players stepping into leadership roles, kinks will surely surface.

Junior guard Anastyn Pettlon has been a leader in her own way, but now as one of the veterans on the team, she's fully accepting her new role.

"This season is going to be completely different, and we're going to try to fill those roles. But I'm pretty excited," Pettlon said. "Me and Rylee (Vierthaler) are just working hard, trying to get everybody in the gym and always motivating them."

Obley credited her leaders' work ethic and desire to develop everyone on the court as what makes them great role models. Taking after players from previous teams, including Kansas State standout and former Spoofhound Serena Sundell, the two are headlining the new generation of Maryville girls basketball.

"I couldn't ask for two better leaders for our program than Anastyn and Rylee, because they're just such great people in the way that they lead others," Obley said. "They demand excellence from themselves, and then they also are able to help pull that excellence out of their teammates. They set a standard of the work that they put in and how they communicate with others."

The Spoofhounds will continue to iron out the wrinkles of new leadership as they look to snap a current two-game losing skid. Maryville will prepare to host MEC foe St. Pius X Jan. 13.

# NW TOP PERFORMERS



### 2021-22 STATS

PPG  
**3.5**

APG  
**1.8**

RPG  
**5.9**

DRB  
**61**

BPG  
**1.5**

After being slated to finish ninth in the MIAA during the preseason, Northwest women's basketball has caught the league by storm with an 11-2 record as of Jan. 11.

While a turnaround like this requires a team effort, sophomore forward Jayna Green has been one of the biggest factors into the hot start.

Green has started all 13 games so far for the 'Cats, and while she may not be the top scorer on the team, she still makes an impact on the offen-

sive side, as she's tied for second on the team in assists.

Where she has made the most impact, though, is the defensive end. Green, as of Jan. 11, is No. 12 in the MIAA in rebounds.

Green has also blocked 19 shots in the 13 games played, which is good enough for second in the MIAA.

"It's just kind of fun to guard someone and make them scared to score on you or scared to go in the paint," Green said. "I would say I take pride in defense."



### 2021-22 STATS

PPG  
**12.4**

APG  
**1.8**

RPG  
**4.6**

FG  
**62/107**

FG%  
**57.9**

Senior guard Mallory McConkey has made her presence felt in a number of ways throughout Northwest women's basketball's first 13 games.

But similar to teammate Jayna Green, McConkey makes her biggest impact on one side of the court. Green controls the defense, while McConkey keeps the gears turning on offense.

With senior guard Kylie Coleman out due to a knee injury and redshirt-freshman guard Emma Atwood missing seven games

due to a knee injury from the first game of the season, the team was looking for someone to come in and help the offense. That someone has been McConkey.

Not one to shy away from contact, the senior guard feasts on drives into the lane for a layup or jumpshot, where she's scored in double digits nine times this season.

"I have the confidence I can drive in," McConkey said. "If I'm one-on-one with somebody, then I'll go ahead and try to score it."



### 2021-22 STATS

PPG  
**13.9**

APG  
**0.9**

RPG  
**5.4**

3PM  
**36**

FG%  
**49.6**

When Northwest men's basketball took the court for the 2021-22 season, things looked a lot different than they had over the last handful of years.

Ryan Hawkins, who won three national titles at Northwest and became the program's all-time leading rebounder, transferred to the University of Creighton.

That, of course, left a void bigger than Hawkins' post presence. Insert Wes Dreamer.

The sophomore forward from Murdock, Nebraska, had an im-

mediate impact at Northwest since arriving in 2019, but he's never had to fulfill the role that he currently is.

Hawkins' departure meant Dreamer was now the "trigger" player of the Bearcats' offense, Northwest coach Ben McCollum said in early November, and that was going to take some getting used to for a player that served as the team's secondary post player a season ago.

He's since flourished into that spot, though, averaging a career-best 13.9 points and 5.4 rebounds per contest.



### 2021-22 STATS

PPG  
**24.6**

APG  
**4.1**

RPG  
**1.9**

3PM  
**73**

FG%  
**49.8**

Junior guard Trevor Hudgins didn't have much left to accomplish heading into his final season of collegiate hoops.

He was already a two-time national champion, the 2018 Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player, the 2021 MIAA Player of the Year, the 2021 NABC Division II Player of the Year, and renown as the best player in Division II.

And he's used the first half of the 2021-22 season to add to that list, yet the postseason accolades aren't even close to being talked about yet.

Yes, Hudgins has been able to

score with some of the best in the country, but throughout the first 14 games of his farewell tour, the Manhattan, Kansas, native has set hoops across the MIAA ablaze by scoring a career-best average of 24.6 points per contest.

He's shot 49.8% from the field, including 45.6% from beyond the arc, to put himself in serious contention to become the program's all-time leading scorer. Hudgins, as of Jan. 11, needs a mere 184 points to surpass his predecessor, Justin Pitts, as the best scorer in program history.

STORIES BY JON WALKER AND WESLEY MILLER

GRAPHICS BY MAKAYLA POLAK | DESIGN EDITOR

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# NEW YEAR, NEW 'CATS

## Women carry hot streak, start into 2022



MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest women's basketball senior guard Mallory McConkey runs the Bearcats' offense during a 49-46 win over MIAA rival Missouri Western Dec. 18 in Bearcat Arena. McConkey shot 4-of-11 against the Griffons to be the second-highest-scoring Bearcat with 9 points.

WESLEY MILLER  
Sports Reporter | @wesleymiller360

While everyone else was heading home and enjoying winter break, the Northwest women's basketball team had business as usual, continuing on with its 2021-22 campaign.

The Bearcats have done more than just continue on with their season, though. During the break from school, they also continued to do what they were doing before break: win.

Northwest posted a 5-1 record over winter break to bring the overall record to 11-2, marking just the second time the 'Cats have won 11 or more games in a season in eight seasons. They have already surpassed their win total from a season ago by four games.

"I think we've been playing well," coach Austin Meyer said. "We always talk about getting better everyday — really that being the only goal — and I think our kids have bought into that."

While the focus of most athletes is to get better everyday, so far the level of play from the Northwest women's basketball team has put the program at fourth in the MIAA, with one loss in conference play and four of its six conference wins coming during break.

The Bearcats started the break off on the right foot when they traveled to Jefferson City, Missouri, Dec. 11 and left with a convincing 56-43 win over Lincoln.

Two days later, with a seven-game win streak in hand, the team traveled to Warrensburg to clash with Central Missouri — a team the Bearcats had not beaten since January 2015. Despite holding a 28-25 lead at halftime, the contest ended similarly to the programs' last 13 games — with a Northwest loss to Central, this time by a score of 60-57.

"We battled," Meyer said Dec. 13. "Toughest place to play in the league, and we were right there in the end."

The Bearcats did not dwell on the loss long and returned to Bearcat Arena Dec. 15 for their last non-conference game of the regular season against McKendree. Northwest was the better of the Bearcats on the night and won 54-29.

With the win over McKendree, Northwest finished with a 5-1 record against opponents outside the MIAA for a 83.3% win percentage — the program's best since the turn of the century.



MAKAYLA POLAK | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest women's basketball sophomore forward Jayna Green dribbles around a defender during the Bearcats' 49-46 win over MIAA rival Missouri Western Dec. 18 in Bearcat Arena. Green was a menace on defense, making her presence felt with four blocks.

SEE STREAK | A6

## Men use break to continue tear through conference

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

There aren't many certainties when it comes to winter in the northwest corner of Missouri.

Nobody ever really knows when or if it's going to snow. Nobody ever really knows what they're getting for the holidays. Nobody ever really knows if chili with cinnamon rolls is actually good or not.

But the one thing that remains constant, the thing everybody has been able to count on for the better part of the last decade, is that Northwest men's basketball is going to nab some wins over the school's intersemester break.

The No. 2 Bearcats wasted little time displaying why they're the seemingly everlasting constant, too, using the Saturday that seniors at Northwest graduated (Dec. 11) to hit the road for a matchup with MIAA foe Lincoln.

Five Northwest players scored in double figures during the 84-54 win over the Blue Tigers, including a career-best 26-point outing from redshirt freshman forward Daniel Abreu, but really only one of the Bearcats' 18 assists in that game mattered.

Northwest junior guard Trevor Hudgins racked up eight assists in the first half, and the last one pushed him past former teammate Justin Pitts to become the program's all-time leader in assists.

"It's great," Northwest coach Ben McCollum said of Hudgins after the Lincoln game. "I mean, having good players is really nice and makes me look like I can coach a little bit, and he's one of 'em. I think, once his career's over, we'll probably realize how great that is, in regards to being able to get those records."

They didn't stop ravaging through the conference they've won eight years in a row there, though. Two days after their win over the Blue Tigers, the Bearcats made the trek to Warrensburg before defeating Central Missouri 77-53.

But that wasn't the game everybody had on their wish list for the holidays. Another game with five players scoring double figures, a 19-point night from sophomore forward Luke Waters — those were just the stocking stuffers for Northwest fans.

Because five days after the conclusion of a two-game road trip, the 'Cats returned to Bearcat Arena for the season's first of two matchups with rival Missouri Western. Similar to



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest men's basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins shoots a floater over a defender during the Bearcats' 74-64 win over Pitt State Jan. 3 in Bearcat Arena. Hudgins was 4-for-10 and tied with teammate Diego Bernard for a game-high 18 points.

meetings in the past, it was hyped up to be everything each fanbase wanted it to be. And similar to meetings in the past, 20 in a row to be exact, the 'Cats dominated the Griffons.

They did so behind a 36-point outing from Hudgins, who overcame a slow start to eventually finish 12-of-15 from the field and 8-for-8 from the free-throw line.

"The first half, I was just trying to create for others and just see what (Western) was doing, pretty much," Hudgins said after the win over Western Dec. 18. "The second half, I mean, we just started going; we just started to get in a flow."

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